Representations received on the Privatisation of Indian Airlines

*67. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received spate of representations to reconsider their decision to privatise the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's move to privatise the Indian Airlines would go against the national interest and workers employed in the organisation; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Some factions of employees have expressed reservations about the disinvestment in Indian Airlines. Their apprehensions primarily, relate to issues concerning service conditions, job security and likely change in the character of the airline.

(c) and (d) National interests, as also the legitimate interests of the Indian Airlines employees, would be fully safe guarded in the process of disinvestment.

Companies owing dues to the Banks and the FIs

†*68. SHRI D.P. YADAV:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the big companies, which owe dues to various banks including RBI and financial institutions alongwith the details of the amount involved;

(b) what steps Government have taken to recover bank dues from the big firms; and

(c) the purpose for which the "secrecy clause" is being maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

*†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Under the existing banking laws in force, disclosure of names of borrowers of banks and financial institutions (FIs) is not permissible except under the circumstances as provided under various statutes. RBI publishes a list of borrowers (with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits have been filed by banks and FIs for recovery of their funds, as on 31st March every year. A list of suit filed accounts as on 31.3.1999 has been placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) Reserve Bank of India/Government of India as well as public sector banks have taken a number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These are:

(i) In order to prevent the accretion of fesh NPAs banks have taken steps to upgrade the credit appraisal skills at different levels.

(ii) All public sector banks have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors.

(iii) Banks are attempting to reduce their NPAs through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum cost.

(iv) Recovery cells have been set up at Head Offices under a General Manager and branch-wise targets have been fixed by banks. Performance of branches in recovery is monitored by Head Offices on monthly basis and the Boards of Directors are kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis.

(v) Debt Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Patna, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Hyderabad and Ernakulam and Appellate Tribunals in Mumbai and Chennai have been set up so far to assist speedy recoveries to banks dues.

(vi) Settlement advisory committees headed by retired Judges have been set up by nine banks to examine and recommend compromise proposals in respect of large advances to the competent authorities for their consideration.

(vii) Settlement Advisory committees of executives have been set up as per guidelines issued by RBI to liquidate more than three year old NPAs of SSI Sector and small loans by compromise settlement.

(viii) In order to further expedite the recovery mechanism, the Recovery of Debts Due to banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 has been amended by promulgation of an ordinance on 17th January, 2000.

The ordinance seeks to, *inter-alia*, provide for set-off and counter claims, appointment of receivers and commissioners by the Tribunals, appointment of more than one recovery officer and empowering the Tribunals to distribute the sale proceeds among secured creditors in accordance with the provisions of Section 529 A of Companies Act, 1956.

(c) A number of banking laws which are in force contain provisions for non-disclosure of information relating to bank accounts. Confidentiality of bank accounts is an established principle derived from custom and usage.

Recommendations of G.M. Banatwala Committee

*69. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether G.M. Banatwala Committee as far back as in the mid-80s had recommended anti-hijacking measures; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and how many of them have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No such Committee headed by Shri G.M. Banatwala was constituted to suggest anti-hijacking measures.